



USAID
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PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

August 3, 2006, Issue 12

U K R A I N E

Mission Director Announces Energy Efficiency Program During Visit to Odesa

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast announced the launch of a \$1 million energy efficiency effort on July 10, to help Ukraine's industry to better utilize limited energy resources. The program will provide technical assistance and solutions for low-cost financing to selected industrial energy consumers for implementing energy efficiency improvements to reduce the country's dependence on imported natural gas. USAID will invite Western energy services companies, commonly known as ESCOs, to partner with Ukrainian counterparts, and will provide low-cost financing through the U.S. Export-Import Bank and private sector financial institutions.



Mission Director speaks with Pryportoviy Ammonia Chemical Plant managers

"Corporate natural gas consumers who are looking to increase their efficiency will be able to apply for support in an open, competitive process," explained Mr. Gast during a press conference in Odesa.

Mr. Gast was in the oblast capital to visit the Pryportoviy Ammonia Chemical Plant, located just outside the southern port city, to get a better idea of how large factories use energy, and to become acquainted with the improvements that are taking place and what is still needed. The visit to Odesa

was part of the mission director's three-day tour of USAID programs in Ukraine's southern oblasts.

USAID Project Graduates -- Ukraine's Vanguard of FDI Professionals

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast awarded certificates on July 19 to the first graduates of the USAID Local Economic Development training program for foreign direct investment (FDI) professionals.



USAID Mission Director Earl Gast (right) awarding certificate

The graduates are at the vanguard of the effort to make Ukraine "investor-ready." They have been versed in financial and economic assessment of investment projects, industrial site and zone preparation, analysis of strategic investment priorities, and FDI marketing, presentation and negotiation skills.

Twenty-four persons took part in the program's first cycle, which started on March 1, 2006. They came from all the regions of Ukraine and included municipal and oblast officials involved in economic development, professional organizations that support local economic development, independent LED consultants, and representatives from the Ukrainian Center for Foreign Investment Promotion. The training was the first inroad made in Ukraine in training FDI professionals for local governments and public administration agencies.

AMP Introduces Modern Technologies of Vegetable Production and Marketing in Lviv Oblast

On June 30, USAID's Agricultural Marketing Project (AMP) conducted a Field Day in the village of Zibolki in Zhovkvy Rayon, Lviv oblast. Leading input suppliers demonstrated their products, along with wholesale/retail trade and produce growers.



Packing lettuce with a smile

More than 80 vegetable varieties and hybrids were presented during the Field Day, including lesser known crops, such as Peking cabbage.

First Two Community Connections Groups Depart for the U.S.

On July 11, a pre-departure orientation was held in Kyiv for the first Community Connections group to travel to the U.S. for a three-week program. USAID's Community Connections Program is designed to offer Ukrainians a chance to meet and exchange experiences and expertise with their U.S. counterparts.

Nancy Godfrey, director of USAID's Office of Health and Social Transition, congratulated 10 members of the HIV/AIDS Combating Stigma and Discrimination group from Crimea.

The participants were selected through an open competition based on their proven commitment to fighting intolerance toward those who are living with HIV/AIDS.

"We hope that the program will facilitate the building of partnerships among you to support coordinated and operative responses to HIV/AIDS on a national level, and between you and your host organizations on an international level," said Ms. Godfrey.

On July 12, a similar orientation was held for a group of journalists whose host organization in the

U.S. is the International Visitors Center of Chicago. Eight more Community Connections groups are scheduled to travel to the U.S. this summer and fall. Each group has a different theme and represents a different region of Ukraine.

USAID Regional Mission Co-Hosts the First Workshop in Rural and Agricultural Finance for E&E Region

From July 11-14, USAID Regional Mission to Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus co-hosted the first Rural and Agricultural Finance workshop in the E&E region. Twenty-five participants from Kyiv, Baku, Cairo, Chisinau, Minsk, Yerevan, Zagreb, and Warsaw shared their experiences in managing and implementing credit-related programs, and explored new directions in rural and agricultural finance. They also learned about effective ways to provide agricultural producers in this region access to additional credit and finances and a better chance for growth and success.



Participants waiting to tackle the next challenge

In her opening remarks, Acting Mission Director Karen Hilliard stressed: "This training program is critical for the region because the countries you represent have large rural populations and agricultural sectors. Your challenge is to catalyze agricultural sector development, while also examining other rural economic development issues, including small and medium enterprise development in rural areas."

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M O L D O V A

Moldova Welcomes its First Modern Strawberry Production Site

With support from USAID's Agribusiness Development Project (ADP), Moldova's first modern strawberry production site opened in Criuleni. New technology will allow harvests at the site to be longer, increasing outputs to produce a high-quality strawberry yield for both domestic and export markets.



Made in Moldova: strawberries grown with new technologies

The strawberry farm has created 60 new jobs for the local economy. Staff at the site have conducted field trainings for regional berry producers seeking to upgrade their production technologies.

Young People Who Lack Parental Care Find a New Home

A USAID-funded Social Reintegration Center for Youth was recently opened in Soroca, providing temporary housing to boarding school graduates with no families. The Center will offer the young graduates not only housing but psychosocial counseling, life skills development, professional orientation, vocational counseling and support as they transition to independent living. More than 70 young people per year will benefit from the Center's assistance.



UN-UNDP Resident Representative Bruno Pouezat with two Center residents at the opening ceremony

The Social Reintegration Center in Soroca is the third center launched under the USAID "Better Opportunities for Women and Youth" project, implemented by UNDP.

Upcoming Events

August 1 - 4, Local Government Reform Project, project opening: Road Renovation Project, Ciuciulea, Glodeni.

August 1 - 4, Local Government Reform Project, project opening: High School Heating System Renovation Project, Ciuciulea, Glodeni.

August 10, Better Opportunities for Youth and Women in Moldova, opening of a maternal center, Drochia.

August 16, BIZPRO, opening of a One Stop Shop, Glodeni.

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